

EUROPE

When orders come for a country in Europe, you have an opportunity to visit lands from which many of our ancestors originated. All of the countries have ancient beginnings and, quite naturally, the people are proud of their part in history. Europeans know a great deal about the United States but they are eager to learn more. Understanding is a two-way street however, and the overseas host has much of interest to offer you. Each country is very

different as well as changing all the time and with many ways of doing things. We are convinced our way of living is the best for us; but the more you know about your host country, the more respect you will have for its people and their ways of doing similar things. Even in the British Isles, the English language and some of the local mannerisms are different from ours and misunderstandings may occur.

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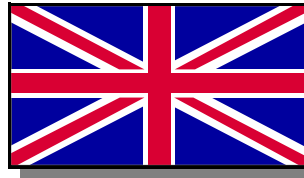
Generally, speaking, life in Europe is not as casual as it is for us. Casual clothes are worn only at home or for participation in sports. Neighbors do not usually call on neighbors unless they are specifically invited; this holds for children as well. Everybody shakes hands on arrival and departing, but friends usually embrace and kiss on both cheeks when greeting.

In Europe, be prompt when visiting anyone or attending theater or concerts, for curtain time means just what it says. Late arrivals are not often seated until the end of the first act. As is the custom, face those already seated as you slide into your theater seats.

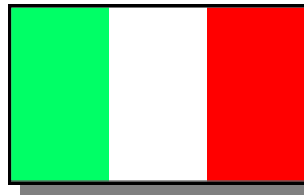
You will be expected to make the first visit to neighbors and new friends. When you are invited, don't go empty handed. Take with you some homemade goodies or flowers. A note of appreciation to the hostess after the visit is usually in order, but thank-you's differ from country to country. In England, for instance, a written note is done very promptly; whereas in Scandinavia, "thank-you's" are said upon meeting the next day and again the next week if one meets.

Flowers are very important in European countries. In Germany, a bouquet should be presented to your hostess at dinner. But remember that roses, especially red, are for brides and lovers only, and white chrysanthemums and asters are the traditional flowers of death in Germany, France and Italy. If in doubt, ask the flower seller what is appropriate.

"Every land has its own special rhythm and unless the traveler takes the time to learn the rhythm, he or she will remain an outsider there always." Juliette De Baircli Levy, English Writer



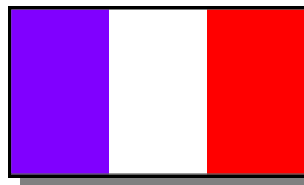
Great Britain



France



Spain



Italy



Germany

GETTING AROUND

In some European cities, the downtown center area (often called centrum) is closed to traffic allowing open shopping malls. You will find small, intimate shops as well as large department stores. European chocolates are considered by many to be the best in the world. Swiss watches, German clocks, Belgian lace, Scandinavian wood products, Italian ceramics and British Woolens are only a few of the great European goods available to the seasoned shopper. Since most store clerks speak some English, you will have very little difficulty in making your selection known. Besides, VISA and MASTERCARD are words everyone understands.

Travel through Europe is generally easy and fast. The autobahns or freeways are wide and kept in very good condition. Most countries have excellent train and bus service. From the Fjords of Norway and Sweden through the rivers of France, Germany and Belgium to the beautiful blue Mediterranean, there are marvelous old castles, homes, inns, churches, vineyards and other historic sites to explore as well as the beautiful scenery to enjoy. And, don't forget the magnificent Alps, the Spanish Pyrenees, the volcanoes of Italy, the Pindus of Greece and the Mountains of Scandinavia. Europe has a wealth of things to see and enjoy!

For more information contact the Relocation Assistance Program located at your nearest Family Service Center